

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 and 42-50 were pending in this application, of which Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 18-39, and 47-50 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 44 and 45 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, independent Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in Claim 44. Claims 16, 17 and 45 are amended for proper claim dependency. Claims 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19-40, 44, and 47-50 are canceled.

Claim 1 is allowable because of the incorporation of the allowable subject matter. Dependent Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-12, 16-18, and 42, 43, 45, and 46 are also allowable at least in view of the patentability of the claims upon which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

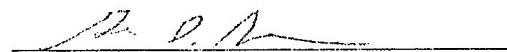
It is respectfully submitted that the claim objection and the claim rejections under 35 USC §§112, 102 and 103 are rendered moot by the above claim amendments.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account No. 50-1887.

Respectfully submitted,

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